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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

COSY NOOKS AND CORNERS.

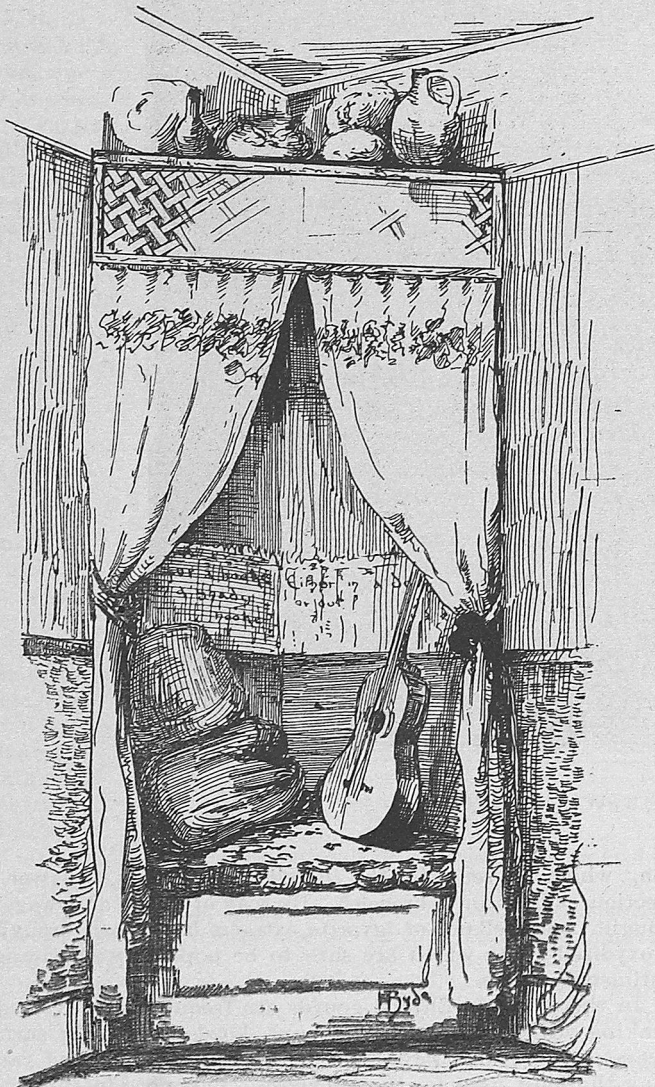
BY LAURA B. STARR.



COSINESS in the decoration and arrangement of our homes is the one condition we are all striving to attain at the present moment. No more the long, spacious parlors; no more the large chambers, and the larger sitting and living rooms. Everything must be "cosy and homey" now. To this end, as we cannot all rebuild our houses, we break the long spaces by the liberal use of screens and portieres, and make of vacant corners the most tempting cosy nooks imaginable.

The idea is a pleasing one, and it is to be hoped that it will not prove a mere passing fancy. One of the simplest of these arrangements, and one which an ingenious woman may accomplish without help from the carpenter, consists of two large cushions stuffed with excelsior; they should be from a yard and a quarter to two yards square, and at least a foot and a half thick. They should be stuffed very full and hard; the bottom of the lower one should be covered with a piece of oilcloth to protect it from wear and tear. Blue denim may be used for covering, or any handsome upholstery goods that matches or harmonizes with the general tone of the room. When finished they will fit into any vacant corner, the special advantage of these being that they are easily moved about. Three or four down or feather pillows, covered with bright colored China silk, arranged against the wall will make a very comfortable lounging place. A canopy or long, hanging drapery may be arranged if desired, but usually these are not covered, although a Japanese umbrella raised over one gives a good effect. These large cushions are especially useful in a chamber not provided with a lounge of some sort; many a tired body would be stretched out for a little rest during the day were it not for the trouble of taking off the shams and undressing the bed. In this cosy nook one may find rest without extra work.

Still another way to bring about the same effect is to have a three cornered shelf built about a foot from the floor, put a full valance around this and a large cushion upon it, and the



thing is finished. The space underneath will be found useful for storing boots and shoes, etc., etc.

A more pretentious corner, though not so large, was arranged in a room which had a dado of Japanese matting. A triangular box about the height of an ordinary chair was made to fit and fastened there securely. The hinges should be put on the front or the lid will not open well. The box made a convenient receptacle for newspapers, work-basket, slippers or any of the necessary debris of daily use, which is sometimes unsightly. A cushion was made to fit the top and covered with furniture plush; a piece of the same was tacked on smoothly across the



front. Another straight piece was fastened to the wall behind the seat to the height of the dado. Above this was stretched a piece of Chinese storm-coat—plain matting will do as well—upon which was painted the following lines:

"Oh for a booke
And a shady nooke
Either in a doore or out."

On a line with the bottom of the frieze was a three-cornered shelf; below this was a foot and a half of lattice made of reglet sticks. On a line with the lower edge of the lattice was stretched a small brass rod, from which hung soft silken curtains. On the shelf were jars of Mexican pottery and other large bric-a-brac that could stand the height. A small bracket set in the corner, and here was placed a small lamp with rose colored shade which tempered the light to the tired eyes.

A square nook may be arranged by placing a curtain pole four foot long securely against the wall, at right angles with it; a long brace is necessary for this. A Bagdad curtain or handsome piece of drapery is thrown over this and allowed to hang in careless folds. A permanent seat may be arranged like the one just described, but a very good one may be improvised by using one of the old-fashioned tete-a-tetes and adjusting half a dozen pillows thereon. This sort of a corner will be found very useful and tasteful for evening parties where only temporary arrangements are desired.

A very jolly corner, seen in an uptown studio, had a canopy of sailcloth with fish net drapery. A dais, five or six feet square was built into the corner; this was covered with plain drugget with a handsome rug stretched through the center. Dozens of pillows and small cushions filled the space and made it look restful and repose inviting. A solemn owl perched on the ridge pole and kept guard over the unconscious sleeper.

A long, narrow room may be divided and improved in appearance by building a dais a foot high across one end and carpeting it like the floor. A low easel with picture, a work-basket, small table, two or three large cushions strewn about will make this end of the room a favorite lounging place for the whole family.

A divan made out of a packing box, cushioned and draped with a Bagdad curtain, or one of grandmother's blue and white coverlets, is, if filled with plenty of soft pillows, a most luxurious lounging place, and discounts the cabinetmaker's best effort by half, that is if comfort and economy are considered.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER, a magazine devoted to the improvement of home and its surroundings, should be in the hands of every art student. In it are articles on painting, sculpture, decorative designs in furniture, pottery, porcelain, etc. The illustrations are numerous, some of them being in colors.—*Palmerston (Ont.) Telegraph.*

OCTOBER DECORATOR AND FURNISHER has a comprehensive article on papier mache. But we fail to find any reference to the assembly ceiling in it, and the name of Snaith does not appear. It may be that the journal in question knows something about papier mache, but it has neglected a vast field of illustration.—*Rochester Herald.*